

PH-N6020593 EP-P

US

jul. 2002

# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication 07-249954

number :

(43)Date of 26.09.1995

publication of

application :

(51)Int.CI.

H03H 7/24

H01P 1/22

(21)Application 06-038110

number :

(22)Date of 09.03.1994  
filing :

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## (54) STEP ATTENUATOR

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain a step attenuator reduced in its insertion loss and in circuit size and having high performance for IC integration in respect of a step attenuator capable of step-wise changing the quantity of attenuation to a required value.

CONSTITUTION: Plural FET switches 2 to 4 for passing/interrupting an input signal are connected between an input terminal 1 and an output terminal 5 and fixed attenuators 6 to 8 with optional attenuation values are arranged in parallel with the switches 2 to 4. Circuits of said constitution are connected in cascade, respective FET switches 9 are selectively turned on/off so as to obtain a required attenuation value. Since the total number of switches and the number of signal passing switches can be reduced as compared with a conventional attenuator, this step attenuator can be realized by a smaller chip area and a smaller insertion loss and has advantages over high performance and IC integration.

